

**Amendments to the Claims**

The current listing of the claims replaces all previous amendments and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A lens barrel comprising:

a plurality of lens groups[:];

a cam cylinder ~~having~~ comprising a cam configured to move ~~at least~~ a portion of said plurality of lens groups toward positions corresponding to a predetermined photographing state and a predetermined collapsed state along an optical axis;

a cam follower configured to move said portion of the plurality of lens groups by engaging with said cam and rotating relatively to said cam cylinder along said cam; and

an elastomer for biasing said cam follower along said optical axis to slide the cam follower on said cam, a biased force of said elastomer varying in response to a moved position of said cam follower;

wherein a developed shape of said cam has different angles to ~~an imaged~~ a plane depending on a position in a collapsible region in which said cam follower is moved from a photographing state to a collapsed state, the developed shape of the cam is configured to suppress an increase in a rotational torque during movement of the cam follower between the photographing and collapsed states, and the portion of the plurality of lens groups comprises a lens group configured to be biased by the elastomer in a direction opposite to a collapsing direction.

2. (Original) The lens barrel according to claim 1, wherein said cam includes a sliding surface for engaging with said cam follower and said sliding surface in the developed shape of the cam is formed from a configuration in which a plurality of surfaces having different angles to the imaged plane are connected successively.

3. (Original) The lens barrel according to claim 1, wherein said cam includes a sliding surface for engaging with said cam follower and said sliding surface in the developed shape of the cam is formed from a curved surface varying continuously at different angles to the imaged plane.

4. (Original) The lens barrel according to claim 1, wherein said elastomer includes a spring.

5. (Currently Amended) The lens barrel according to claim 1, wherein said elastomer is disposed between at least two lens groups of said plurality of lens groups.

6. (Original) The lens barrel according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of lens groups have first and second group lens systems, said cam includes first and second cam grooves each having sliding surfaces, said cam follower includes a first cam follower engaging with said first cam groove and a second cam follower engaging with said second cam groove, and

wherein said lens barrel comprises a fixing cylinder having first and second guide grooves in which the first and second cam followers are engaged and which extend straightly along an optical axis and holding rotatably the cam cylinder, a first moving cylinder disposed in said fixing cylinder to move along the optical axis for holding said first cam follower and first group lens system, and a second moving cylinder disposed in said fixing cylinder to move along the optical axis for holding said second cam follower and second group lens system,

said elastomer is disposed between the first and second moving cylinders to bias them in opposite directions, and

said first and second moving cylinders are moved along the optical axis by rotating relatively said cam cylinder relative to said fixing cylinder.

7. (Original) The lens barrel according to claim 6, wherein each of said sliding surfaces has a configuration in which a plurality of surfaces having different angles to an imaged plane depending on a position in the collapsed region are connected successively.

8. (Currently Amended) The lens barrel according to claim 6, wherein each of said sliding surfaces is formed from a curved surface in which angles to ~~an imaged~~ a plane are varied continuously depending on a position in the collapsed region.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A lens barrel according to claim 3, comprising:

a plurality of lens groups;

a cam cylinder comprising a cam configured to move at least a portion of the plurality of lens groups toward positions corresponding to a predetermined photographing state and a predetermined collapsed state along an optical axis;

a cam follower configured to move the portion of lens groups by engaging with the cam and rotating relatively to the cam cylinder along the cam; and

an elastomer for biasing the cam follower along the optical axis to slide the cam follower on the cam, a biased force of the elastomer varying in response to a moved position of the cam follower;

wherein a developed shape of the cam has different angles to a plane depending on a position in a collapsible region in which the cam follower is moved from a photographing state to a collapsed state,

wherein the cam includes a sliding surface for engaging with the cam follower and the sliding surface in the developed shape of the cam is formed from a curved surface varying continuously at different angles to the imaged plane, and

wherein each of said sliding surfaces is formed from a curved-shaped surface in which a torque is substantially constant at the time of collapsing to the collapsed region.

10. (Original) The lens barrel according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of lens groups include a zoom lens.

11. (Currently Amended) A camera comprising:

a lens barrel;

said lens barrel ~~including~~ comprising:

a plurality of lens groups[[:]];:

a cam cylinder ~~having~~ comprising a cam configured to move ~~at least~~ a portion of said plurality of lens groups toward in a position corresponding to a predetermined photographing state and a collapsed state along an optical axis;

a cam follower configured to move said portion of the plurality of lens groups by engaging with said cam and rotating relatively to said cam cylinder along said cam; and

a resilient body for biasing said cam follower along said optical axis to slide the cam follower on said cam, a biased force of said resilient body varying in response to a moved position of said cam follower;

wherein a developed shape of said cam has different angles to ~~an imaged~~ a plane depending on a position in a collapsed region in which said cam follower is moved from a photographing state to a collapsed state, the developed shape of the cam is configured to suppress an increase in a rotational torque during movement of the cam follower between the photographing and collapsed states, and the portion of the plurality of lens groups comprises a lens group configured to be biased by the resilient body in a direction opposite to a collapsing direction.

12. (Original) The camera according to claim 11, wherein said camera is a digital camera.